

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information output system comprising:

5 a managing section for managing a mail address for each output apparatus;

a search section for searching an output apparatus group for one candidate output apparatus or a plurality of candidate output apparatuses in response to a search request from a terminal apparatus;

10 a notifying section for notifying said terminal apparatus of the mail address of said candidate output apparatus; and

15 a distinguishing section for distinguishing a designated output apparatus from said output apparatus group based on a destination mail address of an electronic mail issued from said terminal apparatus,

said designated output apparatus outputting information included in the electronic mail issued from said terminal apparatus.

20 2. The information output system according to claim 1 wherein said managing section further manages performance information for each of said output apparatuses, and

25 said search section searches for said one candidate output apparatus or the plurality of candidate output apparatuses based on said performance information.

3. The information output system according to claim 1

wherein said managing section further manages installation position information for each of said output apparatuses, and said search section searches for said one candidate output apparatus or the plurality of candidate output apparatuses based on said installation position information.

4. The information output system according to claim 1, further comprising an accounting processor for performing accounting processing before outputting the information included in said electronic mail.

5. An information output system comprising:
a printer group comprising a plurality of printers;
a first server comprising an address managing section for managing a mail address for each of said printers, a search section for searching said printer group for one candidate printer or a plurality of candidate printers in response to a search request from a client, and an address notifying section for notifying said client of the mail address of said one candidate printer or the plurality of candidate printers; and
a second server comprising a receiving section for receiving an electronic mail issued from said client, a distinguishing section for distinguishing a designated printer from said printer group based on a destination mail address of the electronic mail, and a converting section for converting information included in said electronic mail in accordance with said designated printer,

said designated printer printing said converted information.

6. The information output system according to claim 5
5 wherein said first server further comprises:

an information managing section for managing performance information and installation position information for each of said printers; and

an information notifying section for notifying said client of at least one of the performance information and the installation position information with respect to said one candidate printer or the plurality of candidate printers.

7. The information output system according to claim 5
10 wherein the electronic mail is utilized to perform communication between said client and said first server.

8. The information output system according to claim 5,
15 further comprising an authentication apparatus for performing user authentication prior to print processing of said converted information in said designated printer.

9. The information output system according to claim 5
20 wherein said second server further comprises:

a separating section for separating said electronic mail into a plurality of mail elements; and

an individual managing section for individually managing

said respective separated mail elements, and

said information to be printed corresponds to one mail element.

5 10. The information output system according to claim 5 wherein said second server further comprises:

 a storing section in which the information constituting said electronic mail is stored;

 a monitor section for monitoring an empty capacity of said storing section; and

 a restricting section for restricting reception of a print request in accordance with lack of capacity of said storing section.

10 11. The information output system according to claim 10 wherein said second server further comprises a restriction notifying section for notifying said client of reception restriction when the reception of said print request is restricted.

20 12. The information output system according to claim 5 wherein said converting section converts the information included in said electronic mail to a PDL file in accordance with said designated printer.

25 13. The information output system according to claim 12, further comprising:

a storing section for storing said PDL file; and
a deleting section for deleting the PDL file stored in
said storing section when a predetermined condition is
satisfied.

5

14. The information output system according to claim 5
wherein said second server further comprises a virus
processing section for executing a virus check with respect to
said electronic mail.

15. The information output system according to claim 14
wherein said virus processing section comprises:

a report preparing section for preparing a virus check
report when it is judged by said virus check that a virus
exists; and

a report print control section for performing a control
to allow said virus check report to be printed instead of the
printing of the information included in said electronic mail
in said designated printer when it is judged that said virus
exists.

20

16. The information output system according to claim 15,
further comprising an accounting processor for performing
accounting processing prior to the printing of said virus
check report.

25

17. An information output system comprising:

a managing section for managing a mail address for each output apparatus;

a search section for searching an output apparatus group for one candidate output apparatus or a plurality of candidate output apparatuses in response to a search request from a terminal apparatus;

a notifying section for notifying said terminal apparatus of the mail address of said one candidate output apparatus or the plurality of candidate output apparatuses;

a distinguishing section for distinguishing a designated output apparatus from said output apparatus group based on a destination mail address of an electronic mail issued from said terminal apparatus; and

an accounting processing section for performing accounting processing prior to outputting of information included in said electronic mail, and allowing the designated output apparatus to output the information included in said electronic mail after executing the charging processing.

18. The information output system according to claim 17 wherein said accounting processing section comprises:

a selecting section for allowing a user to select an accounting system; and

an accounting executing section for performing accounting in accordance with said selected accounting system.

19. An information output method in which electronic

mail is utilized, comprising steps of:

managing a mail address for each output apparatus;

searching an output apparatus group for one candidate
output apparatus or a plurality of candidate output

5 apparatuses in response to a search request from a terminal
apparatus;

notifying said terminal apparatus of the mail address of
said one candidate output apparatus or the plurality of
candidate output apparatuses;

distinguishing a designated output apparatus from said
output apparatus group based on a destination mail address of
the electronic mail issued from said terminal apparatus; and

outputting information included in the electronic mail
issued from said terminal apparatus by said designated output
apparatus.

20. A storage medium in which a program to be executed
on a computer is stored, said program comprising:

20 a module for managing a mail address for each output
apparatus;

a module for searching an output apparatus group for one
candidate output apparatus or a plurality of candidate output
apparatuses in response to a search request from a terminal
apparatus;

25 a module for notifying said terminal apparatus of the
mail address of said one candidate output apparatus or the
plurality of candidate output apparatuses; and

a module for distinguishing a designated output apparatus from said output apparatus group based on a destination mail address of an electronic mail issued from said terminal apparatus.

5

21. An information output system comprising:

an output apparatus group comprising a plurality of output apparatuses;

a transportable terminal apparatus provided with an electronic mail transmission/reception function;

a first mail server for presenting an electronic mail transmission/reception service to said terminal apparatus;

a first management server comprising a managing section for managing a mail address for each of said output apparatuses, a search section for searching the output apparatus group for one candidate output apparatus or a plurality of candidate output apparatuses in response to a search request from said terminal apparatus, and a notifying section for notifying said terminal apparatus of the mail address of said one candidate output apparatus or the plurality of candidate output apparatuses;

a second mail server for receiving an electronic mail issued from said terminal apparatus; and

a second management server comprising a distinguishing section for distinguishing a designated output apparatus from said output apparatus group based on a destination mail address of said received electronic mail, and a presenting

section for presenting information included in said electronic mail to said designated output apparatus.